

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A system for providing a warranty relating to a transaction between two parties, each party having a data communications device, said system comprising an infrastructure composed of a plurality of locations each associated with a respective institution which provides services to clients, each location having a computer system, a database coupled to the computer system and storing information about each client of the institution and a data communications device coupled to the computer system for communication with the data communications device of any one party, each party being a client of at least one of the institutions, wherein each said location comprises means for exchanging stored information with every other location ~~and~~, means for creating a warranty relating to either party to the transaction in response to a request received from at least one of the parties which is a client of the respective institution and based on information about the two parties contained in at least one of the databases and information about the nature of the transaction received from the one of the parties, and means for receiving information from the institution of the other party indicating whether that institution would support or not support the warranty.

2. (Currently amended) A method for facilitating provision of ~~providing~~ a warranty relating to a transaction between two parties, each party having a data communications device, in a system comprising an infrastructure composed of a plurality of locations each associated with a respective institution which provides services to clients, each location having a computer system, a database coupled to the computer system and storing information about each client of the institution and a data communications device coupled to the computer system for communication with the data communications device of any one party, each party being a client of at least one of the institutions, said method comprising:
receiving ~~transmitting~~ a request for a warranty from one party to the transaction which is a client of the respective institution to a respective location associated with the respective institution, which request includes information identifying the other party to the transaction and information about the nature of the transaction;
receiving ~~conducting an exchange of~~ information to ~~between~~ the respective location from ~~and~~ a location associated with a an institution of which the other party is a client, the

information indicating whether the institution of which the other party is a client would support or not support the warranty; and

transmitting a response to the request from the respective location to the one party.

3. (Currently amended) A method for aiding a plurality of different transactions carried out electronically between a plurality of parties wherein two of the plurality of parties are associated with a specific transaction, the two parties being party A and party B, respectively, said method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

(a) ~~— providing an infrastructure which includes a plurality of institutions and communications systems interconnecting the institutions;~~

(b) ~~— designating a specific transaction and associating with the specific transaction two of the plurality of parties and the role of each of the two parties in the specific transaction, the two parties being party A and party B, respectively;~~

(c) ~~— determining a means for identification of each of the two parties;~~

(d) ~~— assigning requirements that must be met by party A to carry out the specific transaction;~~

(e) receiving requesting, from party B to an institution of a plurality of institutions in an infrastructure wherein communications systems interconnect the institutions the infrastructure, a an electronic request for a warranty that the requirements that must be met by party A or party B to carry out the specific transaction assigned in step (e) are or will be met by party A;

sending first electronic information from the institution to another institution, the first electronic information including identification information regarding party A and information about the nature or content of the specific transaction;

receiving second electronic information to the institution from the other institution, the second electronic information including information about the nature or content of the specific transaction; and

(f) providing, from the institution infrastructure to party B, a response regarding the status of the requested warranty, requested in step (d);

(g) ~~— completing the specific transaction according to the status of the warranty, resulting in a transaction complete state;~~

~~(h) —having the infrastructure manage information about each of the parties, including information about outstanding warranties for each of the parties and transactional administrative information.~~

4. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the institutions comprise financial institutions.

5. (New) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for sending from the institution of the one of the parties to the institution of the other party a message including unique information from a message transferred between the parties regarding the transaction.

6. (New) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for sending from the institution of the one of the parties to the institution of the other party information that includes:

- an identification of the one of the parties;
- a statement of issued/non-issued status of the requested warranty; and
- if the requested warranty is issued, a final coverage value when coverage is approved for the transaction.

7. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the means for creating the warranty further comprises means for receiving information from the one of the parties, the information including two or more items of information selected from the following:

- an identification of the other party;
- a coverage limit requested;
- unique information regarding the transaction between the one of the parties and the other party; and
- a signed portion of a message from the other party to the one of the parties.

8. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the information indicating whether the institution of the other party would support or not support the warranty is information regarding the nature of the transaction and the system further comprises means for comparing the information about the nature of the transaction received from the one of the parties with the information regarding the nature of the transaction received from the institution of the other party.

9. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the institutions comprise financial institutions.
10. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising sending from the respective location to the location associated with the institution of which the other party is a client a message including unique information from a message transferred between the parties regarding the transaction.
11. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the information includes:
 - an identification of the one party;
 - a support/not-support decision;
 - if a support decision, a coverage limit authorized;
 - if a not-support decision, information about the nature of the transaction; and
 - if a not-support decision, a reason for the not-support decision.
12. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising sending from the respective location to the location associated with the institution of which the other party is a client, information that includes:
 - an identification of the one party;
 - a statement of issued/non-issued status of the requested warranty; and
 - if the requested warranty is issued, a final coverage value when coverage is approved for the transaction.
13. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein receiving a request for a warranty from the one party comprising receiving information that includes two or more items of information selected from the following:
 - an identification of the other party;
 - a coverage limit requested;
 - unique information regarding the transaction between the one party and the other party; and
 - a signed portion of a message from the other party to the one party.
14. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the information indicating whether the institution of which the other party is a client would support or not support the warranty is information regarding the nature of the transaction and the method further comprises

comparing the information about the nature of the transaction received from the one party with the information regarding the nature of the transaction received from the institution of which the other party is a client and to use the result in the creating the warranty.

15. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising being able to handle the request for the warranty where the one party is the warrantee and the other party is the subject of the warranty and where the one party is the subject of the warranty and the other party is the warrantee.

16. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein the institutions comprise financial institutions.

17. (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising managing information about party A and party B, including information about outstanding warranties for each of party A and party B and transactional administrative information.

18. (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising being able to handle the request for the warranty where party B is the warrantee and party A is the subject of the warranty and where party B is the subject of the warranty and party A is the warrantee.

19. (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising evaluating the information about the nature or content of the specific transaction received from the other institution and using the result of the evaluation in providing the response regarding the status of the requested warranty.

20. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the request for the warranty further comprises receiving two or more items of information selected from the following:

- an identification of party A;
- a coverage limit requested;
- unique information regarding the specific transaction; and
- a signed portion of a message from party A to party B.